



# Connecticut State Conference of NAACP Branches

Appropriations Committee- Public Hearing  
February 11, 2009

## CT NAACP SUPPORTS THE AFRICAN AMERICAN AFFAIRS COMMISSION

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As one of the eldest organizations dedicated to social justice, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) is alarmed at the possible elimination of the African American Affairs Commission (AAAC).

We are well aware of the pending budget problems. It is during these times when people of color often suffer most. As all citizens of Connecticut struggle with the current financial crisis, eliminating an advocacy agency that helps to ensure that legislation protects those citizens that have historically been disenfranchised is a great disservice. Since 1997, the AAAC has been an advocate for Connecticut African Americans by setting legislative priorities and working cooperatively with state commissions and agencies as well as local and national organizations for the benefit of its constituency.

The Connecticut State NAACP has reached out to the AAAC for support of the issues that are prevalent in the African American community.

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During the 2008 Legislative Session the Connecticut General Assembly passed An Act Establishing a Minority Health Advisory Commission. The AAAC played a key role in helping the CT NAACP with the passage of this historical legislation. In addition, the Commission championed Senate Bill 604, An Act Concerning Hate Crimes. The bill was passed to address the increase in hate crimes regarding nooses being found throughout the state.

In keeping with the mission of empowering our children to pursue the highest level of academic achievement, the AAAC has collaborated with the CT NAACP on several educational initiatives. Through this alliance, the CT NAACP was able to conduct many successful training workshops, which further enhanced cultural awareness, economic opportunities and leadership skills.

We are asking that you please consider the fate of the most vulnerable of our citizens. Those individuals will be disproportionately impacted by the elimination of the services that are sorely needed in our urban communities. The AAAC has continuously provided the resources and services which help to improve the quality of life for the African-American community.

Thank you.